LALLGARH,
BIKANER,
RAJPUTANA.

Immediately on receiving your letter of the 2nd, I telegraphed to a very old friend of mine, whom I think Your Highness has also met, Qazi Sir Azizuddin Ahmad, the Dewan of Datia. He is a fine type of an old Minister, and I have found him very reliable.

Being in Datia - which, with Orchha (Tikamgarh), is one of the 2 seniormost Bundela Rajput States, to which group Charkhari also belongs - I felt sure that he will be the best person through whom to make the necessary enquiries, as I do not myself know much about Charkhari and have only just met the young Maharajah.

The Charkhari State, as I have indicated above, are Bundela Rajputs with whom marriages have taken place with the Rajputana Houses. For instance, the Sister of the present Maharajah of Jaipur is

111

Private.

LALLGARH,
BIKANER,
RAJPUTANA.

19th February 1938.

Your Highness,

It was in a great hurry that I despatched my telegram of the 7th February, saying that I had just then received Your Highness' letter of the 2nd February and was making further enquiries and hoping that you could wait for about a fortnight or so.

But may I now say how much I appreciate the mark of friendship and confidence which you have reposed in me by writing your letter of the 2nd February on a matter of such family importance as the marriage of your Nephew, Prince Jaya ? I hope Your Highness is aware of the high esteem and affection in which I hold you; and I assure you that it is a labour of love for me to be of any assistance to

LALLGARH,
BIKANER,
RAJPUTANA.

married to the Maharajah of Panna, another Bundela Rajput Prince. So there does not appear any objection to a marriage taking place between Your Highness' Nephew and the Princess of Charkhari.

Fortunately, a Colonel Pandey, who was a Minister in Orchha, was also in Delhi; and although Sir Azizuddin knows a good deal about Charkhari affairs, he was further able to ascertain particulars and to verify certain facts.

I now enclose in original Sir Azizuddin's letter, whom I again saw yesterday on the subject before I left Delhi; and I gather from what he has said in his letter, ~~that~~ also personally, the Charkhari Princess is "an exceedingly good girl", that she is "handsome, healthy and very well mannered, and "possessed of all good qualities of a Rajput Princess".

Her Brother, the present Maharajah,

LALLGARH,
BIKANER,
RAJPUTANA.

I may add in confidence, has been rather going the pace a bit; but as the Qazi Sahib has told me and writes, the Princess has been under the influence of her Mother, the Rani of Jigni, and that has been all to the good. ———

The Princess' Sister is married to the Thakur of Achrol, one of the big Chiefs and Nobles of Jaipur, and at present Home Minister there. The Qazi Sahib adds in his letter that Jigni is a very old Estate in Bundelkhand and much respected; and he has concluded his letter by saying that I can safely give a favourable answer to Your Highness.

I may add that the Bundela Rajputs, generally speaking, claim descent from the Rathores, the same clan of Rajputs to which I belong, although for some time, owing to distance, etc., we had rather lost touch with each

LALLGARH,
BIKANER,
RAJPUTANA.

other as Clans men and relations. And for this reason marriages between the Princely Houses in Rajputana and the Bundelas had not taken place for some time; but as I have said above, marriages are now taking place between the Bundelas and the ancient Rajput Houses, including that of Jaipur.

The Maharajah of Datia is a personal friend of mine whom I often visit.

I think I have now given you all the information that I am in possession of. But if there is anything further, pray command me.

It is always a delicate matter to advise in regard to marriages; and happiness or otherwise arising out of such matrimonial alliances is largely in the hands of the gods. But taking everything into consideration, and in view of the facts which I have been able to ascertain

LALLGARH,
BIKANER,
RAJPUTANA.

from Sir Azizuddin, I am of the opinion that there would be no objection to an alliance being contracted with Charkhari, even though it is not one of the big States, by the great House of Mysore.

Hoping most earnestly that Your Highness is now in greatly improved, if not completely restored, health, and with every possible good wish, and many affectionate messages,

Ever Your Sincere & affectionate friend

Ganga Singh